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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH OF FOWEY

1940

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Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Fowey,

YEAR 1940.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)--3,051·341.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1940—2,225.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)—631.
Number of families or separate occupiers—659.
Rateable value (March, 1940), £16,726.
Sum represented by a penny rate—£66 15s. 8d.

The social conditions of the Area have not altered to any material extent during the year under review, but the principal local industry, i.e., shipment of China-Clay, has slumped severely since the collapse of France and the over-running of the Continent and the Scandinavian countries. These markets, naturally, had disappeared, and the registered tonnage of shipping visiting the Port showed a decline of 219,393 tons.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births—Legitimate—9 Males and 9 Females.
,, —Illegitimate—1 Male and 1 Female.
Total Live Births—20.
Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—8·98.
(Annual Live birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales—14·6).
,, ,, for 148 "smaller towns"—15·7).
Still-births—1 male.
Deaths—16 males; 16 females—total 32.
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—14·38.
(Annual death-rate, all causes, per 1,000 for England and Wales—14·3).
,, ,, for 148 "smaller towns"—12·8).
Deaths from puerperal causes—none.
Deaths from infants under one year of age—none.

Deaths from Cancer, all ages—4. (1 male and 3 females).
Deaths from Measles—none.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—none.

The Birth-rate shows a marked improvement over the figures for 1939, being 8·98 per 1,000 as compared with 2·67; but it is still very much below the level for the whole country, this figure being 14·6 per 1,000.

Classification of Deaths during 1940.

1 male from Influenza.
1 male and 3 females from cancer.
2 males and 1 female from diabetes.
3 females from "Intracranial Vascular Lesions."
6 males and 3 females from "heart-disease."
1 female from bronchitis.
1 male and 1 female from Pneumonia.
1 male from "other respiratory diseases."
1 male from appendicitis.
1 female from nephritis.
1 female from premature birth.
1 male from "other violent causes," viz., falling into river.
1 male and 3 females from "all other causes."

Diseases notified.

Measles—31.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—2.

Diphtheria—1. (This case, a Naval Rating billeted in the town, was afterwards found to be suffering from a severe septic throat).

There was a small epidemic of mild Measles during the year, the "peak" number of notifications having occured in June. It is certain that there were a number of cases in addition for whom the parents had not called in a Doctor and these were not notified.

Meteorological Data.

	Rainfall	(average)	Sunshine	(average)
January	3·01″	3·98″	63·3 hrs.	56·5
February	4·02″	3·01″	45·4	76·7
March	2·45″	3·10″	132·9	131·3
April	2·54″	2·33″	138·8	179
May	·83″	2·20″	229·4	193·3
June	·88″	1·76″		266·7
July	2·08″	2·55″	205	200
August	·08″	2·97″	184·1	178
September	2·16″	2·67″	140·2	151
October	2·31″	3·93″	116·5	116·5
November	6·57″	3·74″	59·1	74·5
December	4·85″	4·54″	29·4	57·3

The months of February and November were abnormally dull and wet. There was a marked deficiency of rainfall in the months of May, June and August.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

No alterations to report in this connection, the arrangements remaining as in 1939.

No further "official" evacuees were received, but a small number of "unofficial" evacuees entered and left the area during the year.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of Area.

1. WATER.—There has been no alteration in scope and arrangements of the water-supply during the year. The exceptionally dry weather experienced during May, June, July and August gave rise to some anxiety as the supply in storage became ominously low. The inhabitants of the Borough, however, responded well to the Water Engineer's appeals for economy and it was possible to tide over a difficult period.

Periodical bacterial counts have been carried out at intervals during the year. In September the Analyst reported in regard to one of the routine samples from one of the Reservoirs that there was a high Bacillus Coli count. The pollution was evidently of recent origin as there was not a large excess of organic matter present. Samples were taken from each of the springs from which this particular Reservoir was supplied. One of them was found to be quite satisfactory. but the other showed Bacillus Coli present to an undesirable extent. The latter was at once cut out of supply and steps were taken to chlorinate the contents of the Reservoir in question. Householders were furthermore advised to boil their drinking-water.

There seemed to be no reason to account for the high bacterial count beyond the abnormal spell of dry weather. The water from this particular spring gave a satisfactory " count " as soon as normal condition of rainfall had been re-established.

(2) Sewerage and Drainage.

268 feet of Sewer and 220 feet of Drains were laid in pursuance of the scheme for improvement in this respect. Seven Drains were connected.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of Houses.

12 visits were made in respect of drainage. 12 systems were found defective. 2 new systems tested.

SECTION D

Housing.

4 houses were inspected. 4 notices served in respect of various sanitary defects, and these notices were complied with in all cases.

1 case of fitness issued under Section 1 of Housing Act 1936.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) ***Milk Supply***—There are 22 persons registered as milk producers, retailers, etc. 18 are producers, 11 being retail purveyors, 2 are local dairies, and 2 are retail purveyors with premises outside the Borough area.

21 visits have been made to the various farms. In some cases requests for improved conditions of cleanliness have been necessary, but difficulty has been experienced in obtaining compliance with these requests owing to shortage of labour.

(b) ***Meat and other Foods***—There is no Ministry of Food slaughter-houses within the Borough area. 9 visits were made to inspect pigs killed by licence. 14 lbs. of Ham and 45 lbs. of Beef from shops were condemed as unfit for human consumption.

(c) ***Adulteration, &c.***—No action necessary under the various Acts.

(d) ***Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Food***—No action required under this heading.

(e) ***Nutrition***—No action taken or necessary.

(f) ***Shell-fish***—There are no shell-fish layings within the Borough area.

(g) ***Miscellaneous.***—Factories, Bakehouses, etc.—14 visits of inspection made.

PLANS—Building was at a standstill during the year. 3 plans, for small enterprises were approved, but two of these did not mature.

HOUSE & TRADE REFUGE—682 loads were collected and deposited at the dump. Regular measures for controlling the rat population at the dump have been undertaken.

Salvage disposed of—11 tons 10 cwt. of old iron ; 5 tons of paper.
4 Sheeps' carcases washed up on the foreshore were disposed of.

FUMIGATION—4 rooms were fumigated.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

There was no serious infectious disease during the year and the only outbreak was the mild epidemic of Measles mentioned above.

Deaths from Cancer totalled 4 (1 male and 3 females), ages ranging from 42 to 82.

Prevention of Blindness.—No action necessary.

Tuberculosis.—No action necessary under Public Halth (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. one of these was a re-notification.

The notification of Tuberculosis appears to be efficient in the area, and there has been no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

WILLIAM H. KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

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